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Peace Officers Memorial Service Slated for May 13 at Noon

Fifteenth Annual Service to Honor and Remember City-County-State Law Enforcement

Salisbury, NC_May 8, 2010 – The City of Salisbury announced today that the Rowan County Peace Officers Memorial Service will be held at 12 noon on Thursday, May 13, at First Presbyterian Church, 308 W. Fisher Street, Salisbury. The annual tribute honors those who have given their lives in the line of duty and those who continue to serve in law enforcement. The public is cordially invited to attend the service which is held in conjunction with 2010 National Police Week, May 9-15.

Each year, the heart-felt tribute unites the Salisbury Police Department and the Rowan County Sheriff's Department as together they pay tribute to their fallen brothers and to their fellow comrades at arms. Prior to the service beginning, the Law Enforcement Explorers will perform the "Placing of the Wreath" and a musical prelude will be offered by Stephen Stringer. The service will commence with the Salisbury Police Honor Guard's "Posting of Colors" at precisely 12 noon, followed by the leading of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Law Enforcement Explorers. The invocation will be given by Dr. Randal V. Kirby, Associate Minister of First Presbyterian Church, with Rowan County Sheriff Kevin Auten and Salisbury Police Chief Rory B. Collins welcoming those in attendance.

Speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council, Mayor Susan Kluttz offers the following, "I cordially invite the public to attend this memorial service as we honor the memory of those so devoted to preserving justice. These dedicated heroes paid the ultimate sacrifice of their tomorrows so that we might all live in peace today. To the parents, families, and friends of these law enforcement professionals, we embrace you with sincere compassion and offer our heart-felt prayers. The thin blue line of courage is a lasting tribute to their selfless service to protect our rights and ensure our liberty and peace. The memories of these brave officers will live on in our hearts forever. In addition, we take this opportunity to thank all law enforcement personnel for their noble service to our community. We thank their families for their vigilance in support of the law enforcement service that these officers so love. We join these family members in prayers for the safe return home of these officers each and every day. It is with the greatest of honor, respect, and dignity that we recognize our many dedicated law enforcement officers and share our sincere gratitude for their devoted service."

Special music, *The Last Best Place*, will be shared by Madison McCorkle and The Singing Deacons. The group includes Jeff McCorkle, Rowan County Sheriff's

Department, and his daughter Madison. Salisbury Police Chaplain Harold Bumby will offer the scripture lesson. Additional special music, *The Prayer*, will be offered by Salisbury Police Dispatcher Robin Allen and daughter Courtney. Ruth Chaparro Kennerly will provide piano accompaniment.

The "Altar Ritual/Final Inspection of the Wreath" will be conducted by Salisbury Deputy Chief Steve Whitley, serving as Honor Guard Commander of the service. Recognition of state and local roll calls of honor and officers reverently remembered will follow.

The State of North Carolina Roll Call of Honor will commence as Chaplain Tom Teichroew, Salisbury Police Department, remembers those deputies, troopers, and police officers who have fallen in the line of duty from May 2009-May 2010. Those recognized are as follows:

Sergeant Dulan Earl Murray, Jr., May 15, 2009, Nags Head Police Department
Trooper Kyle Patrick Barber, May 19, 2009, North Carolina Highway Patrol
Sergeant Micky Gray Hutchens, October 12, 2009, Winston-Salem Police Department
Deputy Sheriff Charles Douglas (Charlie) Brown, Jr., December 8, 2009, Martin County Sheriff's Office

Rowan County Sheriff's Office Chaplain Mike Taylor will follow by recognizing and honoring the Rowan County Roll Call of Honor. Rowan County deputies, police officers, and a sheriff who have fallen in the line of duty prior to 2009 will be remembered. They are as follows:

Deputy Chief Linzy J. Yarbrough, 06-03-1927, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff William Locke McKenzie, 07-16-1931, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Danny R. Griffin, 06-03-1986, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Rick Bauguess, 11-01-1988, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Officer Roger Dale Carter, 12-31-1993, Kannapolis Police Department
Deputy John Beck, 01-27-1994, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Officer Robert Clement, 06-03-1999, Spencer Police Department
Deputy Rick Hillard, 10-17-1999, Rowan County Sheriff's Office

Salisbury Police Chaplain Russell Williams will offer a Moment of Silence in reverent remembrance of local law enforcement officers.

As is customary, the memorial wreath will include flowers which are placed in tribute to law enforcement personnel. A white rose is placed within the wreath to honor those who continue to serve and protect. Red roses are included in the floral arrangement to signify each Rowan County officer who has died in the line of duty and all North Carolina officers killed in the line of duty from May 13, 2009 to May 13, 2010. The blue carnations signify all officers reverently remembered.

Chaplain Harvey Rice of the Salisbury Police Department will offer the final benediction with those in attendance dismissed to the courtyard fountain area of the church; the colors and wreath will be retired to this area as well. The Rowan County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard will offer the traditional Twenty-One Gun Salute in honor of those

remembered. The ceremony will conclude with a trumpeter's rendition of *Taps* by Salisbury Master Police Officer Mark Shue.

Salisbury Police Chief Rory B. Collins shares, "We encourage all citizens to attend this memorial service as we honor and remember those who so selflessly gave their lives to ensure peace and justice for others. The sacrifice of their families is immeasurable. To these family members, I promise to you that these brave men and women will never be forgotten. Each one courageously swore an oath to defend the law and paid the ultimate price to protect both citizen and community. Their bravery and their devotion will live strong and remain in our hearts eternally."

For questions regarding National Police Week, please contact Salisbury Police Community Service Officer Ann Cooper at 704-638-4463. Officer Cooper offers, "Each year, we strive to follow state and national protocol to ensure that these dedicated officers are remembered with reverence and dignity. The names of the North Carolina Roll Call of Honor recipients are carved in stone at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC. To learn more about the memorial and National Police Week, please visit www.nleomf.org."

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full-time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury's Facebook users group at www.salisburync.gov/facebook or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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